

July 10, 1949
Rep. Albert Gore

Good Morning, Friends:

The most important happening of the past week in the Nation's Capital is the historic debate in the United States Senate on the North Atlantic Pact. The problem before the Senate is ratification of that treaty to which the representatives of twelve nations have affixed their signature.

This historic debate on the North Atlantic Pack is being conducted in an historic chamber. I am sure you have noticed that both the House and the Senate have had to vacate their regular chambers in order that repairs may be made to the roofs, which engineers have said have been ^{literally} threatening to ~~literally~~ cave in on our heads.

The Senate moved to the old Senate chamber. I am sure you remember ^{-the old Senate chamber with} seeing pictures in your elementary history books of spectators hanging over the small gallery ~~of the Senate~~ listening to the Webster-Haney debates. This historic North Atlantic Pact debate is being held in that same small chamber, which was vacated by the Senate after a new and much larger wing was added to the Capitol. The Supreme Court then occupied this small chamber or auditorium until the new marble Supreme Court building was erected a few years ago. ^{Since} ~~As soon as~~ the Supreme Court left the chamber it has been left unoccupied but open to the view of the millions of tourists who annually pass through the portals of this Nation's Capitol.

^{Speaker,}
The membership of the Senate is much larger now than it was in the early days and they are finding the accommodations exceedingly cramped.

The House of Representatives has been meeting for the past week in the caucus room. This room is several times larger than the room in which the Senate is meeting but then there are 435 Members of the House and the House staff to accommodate. So, we on the House side are quite cramped and over-crowded, too. ^{And, besides, the facilities, ^{+ physical layout} are inadequate in every way.}

It was my privilege to preside over the consideration of a controversial bill last Friday and I found it much harder to maintain order and give

accurate counts on standing votes under these circumstances. ^{But this does not mean that Congress is going home right away as some have suggested.}

When is Congress going to adjourn? A good many people asked me that question when I was home in Tennessee over the Fourth of July. Well, I do not know but my guess is about August 20. There is a good deal more work cut out for Congress before it can go home. Much work yet remains on appropriation bills. As I have said ~~two or three times~~ before on this program, the Senate is way behind on consideration of appropriation bills. All of them are supposed to have been ^{enacted into} ~~passed and become~~ law ^{before now} but most of them have not even passed the Senate. ^{yet.} All ~~of us~~ now await the very important decision on the North Atlantic Pact. ^{Then,} ~~And~~ there is still the question of labor legislation, the reciprocal trade agreements act has not been passed by the Senate and plans are underway to pass a farm bill before Congress adjourns. ^{The former bill} ~~This~~ bill is scheduled to come up before the House probably about next Wednesday, ^{Also} ~~and there is~~ the rural telephone bill which is scheduled to come up in the House ^{soon, probably next} ~~next~~ Tuesday.

Congress has now been in session for more than six months.

Senate and House Members have introduced more than 8,600 bills. Fortunately, all of these bills have not passed, but to indicate the size of the work load we have been up against, Congressional committees have approved more than 1,500 of these bills. The House has actually passed 821 ^{of them} ~~bills~~ and the Senate 522. 291 have passed the last hurdle and have become law. These figures will indicate the size of the backlog of work still before Congress, with more than 1,500 bills approved by committees, ^{and} ~~with~~ only 291 of that amount having become law, you can see that we still have about 1,300 bills that have been approved by committees now pending action by the House and

Senate. So that is why I say we are not going home right away. We've got to do our job first.

Well,

Congress is ^{very} ~~now~~ curious ^{about} ~~to read~~ the contents of the President's

economic report that is scheduled to be submitted to the Congress tomorrow.

These quarterly reports are always awaited with interest, but the curiosity

and interest has been heightened ^{in this case} ~~now~~ because of ^{the} nervous condition of ^{national}

economic indices. So another interesting work is in prospect - And I will give you a report on its developments next Sunday - That is all for now.

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THE REASON FOR THE PACT

The ~~Senate~~ debate on the North Atlantic Treaty had an auspicious start yesterday when, in a speech of high resolve, Senator Connally, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, urged swift approval of the Pact in order to provide unmistakable proof that this time the free nations will stand together to defend their liberties against a threat from any quarter. He emphasized strongly the purely defensive purpose of the Treaty, which unsheathes no sword, drops no bomb and sets no soldier on the march except in case of armed attack. ~~And he clarified anew the fact that there is nothing in this Pact which automatically commits the United States to war or impairs the exclusive right of Congress to declare war.~~

~~At the same time, He also emphasized the fact that the defense of the free world can be made effective only if the free nations coordinate and consolidate their forces into an organic whole, lest, like the ten European countries already subjugated by Russia, they be conquered one by one. Finally, he warned Congress to face the realities of the international situation instead of looking for escape clauses or attempting to minimize the obligations we assume. Any such effort will only impair the value of the Treaty and do disservice to our country and to the cause of peace.~~

In this cause Senator Connally found powerful support in the speeches delivered on Independence Day by General Smith, former Ambassador to Moscow, and by Defense Secretary Johnson. While holding that the growing military strength of the United States has halted the tide of Communist expansion in Europe, General Smith also warned that this check may be only temporary, and that in any case the "cold war" continues as a contest of indefinite duration, in which the prize of peace will be won only by patience, firmness, resolution and, above all, by strength. "Peace through strength" was also Mr. Johnson's theme. Mr. Johnson's Smith made

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theme. And General it plain that if our strength is to serve the purposes of peace it must not merely consist of a defense potential but must actually exist and must be apparent to all concerned. Under the North Atlantic Treaty our strength becomes part of the strength of the European signatories, just as their strength—or their weakness—in turn, becomes part of ours. It is because of this inescapable connection, which ties our security to West-European liberty, that both Mr. Johnson and Senator Connally urge Congress to approve not only the Pact itself but also the program of military aid to our allies.

In all these considerations the proponents of "peace through strength" at last give proper emphasis to a factor which unfortunately was largely overlooked at the wartime conferences and in our post-war military policy—namely, the role and influence of power in international affairs. While we in the West trusted to paper agreements and wrecked our war machine as soon as the war was over, Russia never lost sight of the power factor and not only seized every country it could lay hands upon but also exploited our own self-imposed weakness, to reach out beyond its military frontiers through Communist elements which found their own strength and momentum in the backing openly provided to them by Russian power. That expansion by infiltration may now be checked. But it is all too plain, and it was frankly announced by Mr. Stalin himself as early as February, 1946, that Russia is building up its military strength.

It is doing so by maintaining and modernizing the largest army in the world and arming its satellites in defiance of treaties and at a cost which in terms of national income far exceeds our own armament budget. Moreover, Russia is openly attempting to regiment, within its wide orbit of influ-

vious Fourth of July 1941. At least it is not a single fatality with fireworks. Traffic accidents led the list. Of course deaths were avoidable. The sacrifice of even high a price to pay for carelessness.

"BRASS H

Bernard M. Baruch comments at the Industrial Armed Forces about 1 of our economic mob somewhat overshadowed no less germane defense hats" in American life. has had close contacts tary during a major pa and useful public career ited remarks about the tributions to the nation States Army, Navy a leaders should be heart v services at a time when of many in the officer c what depressed.

What Mr. Baruch terms of the American democ professional soldiering wi liberty" has been, indeed, safeguards of our way of tradition—the love of libert subordination of military control—must continue to pass by which our military Americans first, soldier orient themselves in the new world of the atomic Mr. Baruch pointed out, given our military leader been commensurate wit bilities thrust upon the principles that we ex hold. One cannot p ship; nor do materia young men to enter services of their count pay—a chance to brin